

December 24, 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

1031 Chenango Street, Binghamton, New York 13901



St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Eucharistic faith community committed to living and sharing the Gospel life.

Staff

Rev. Timothy Taugher, Pastor
Deacon Stephen Blabac
Delores A. Farwell
Parish Administrative Assistant
Maria Kirk
Director of Faith Formation
Joseph Carpenter
Parish Business Administrator
Suzanne Ekstrom
Parish Media Manager
Edmund Savo
Organist
Fred Hazlett
Maintenance/Groundskeeper
Tina Silvestri
Housekeeper
Brendan Kliment
Sarah & Mary Bush
Sacristans

Office Hours:

Monday — Thursday:
7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Friday: Closed

Confession:

2nd & 4th Saturday of every
month at 3:00 pm in the Church

Parish Office Phone: 722-4388

Faith Formation Office Phone:

722-4177

E-mail:

stfrancisbing@syradio.org

Website:

www.stfrancisbing.org

Please go online to
stfrancisbing.org to view
our latest Children's Liturgy.
We post new videos by
4:00PM on Saturdays.

Follow us on Facebook



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**Subscribe to our YouTube
Channel:**



**youtube.com/
@stfrancisbing**

**Saturday, December 23, Vigil of Sunday**

4:00 p.m. Carolyn Flanagan by John & Brenda Artman

Sunday, December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m. Louise Martin by Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bucci

Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

10:00 p.m. Liturgy for the People

Monday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 a.m. Liturgy for the People

10:30 a.m. Liturgy for the People

Tuesday, December 26

NO MASS

Wednesday, December 27

NO MASS

Thursday, December 28

NO MASS

Friday, December 29

NO MASS

Saturday, December 30, Vigil of Sunday

4:00 p.m. Dan Mc Garry by St. Francis Special Sunshine Committee

Sunday, December 31, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

10:30 a.m. 5th Anniv. Richard Kapinus by Family

Catherine's Cupboard

CATHERINE'S CUPBOARD has been serving our community for the past 20+ years, it's **open the 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month from 5 till 7 (or until all are served)**. We serve anyone who comes, asking only for ID, if they have any. As members of SOUTHERN TIER FOOD BANK, we purchase at wholesale (or less), providing **basic dry or canned goods, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy, and frozen meats**. We try to provide **5 days of meals** and include **personal care items** also. We operate on **100% donations or grants**. Our location at the parish center means we have most overhead costs covered. However, we serve over 1200 people, requiring a budget of close to \$50,000 a year. PLEASE tell anyone you know who is feeling food insecure to stop in. **If you would like to donate food items, they can be left at parish center or food barrel in church foyer. Monetary donations can be mailed to our parish office or via the online giving tab at stfrancisbing.org**

Weekend's Offering (12-10-23)

Regular Envelopes.....\$5,920.00
 Loose Collection.....\$490.00
 Electronic Collection.....\$1,950.00
 Total Collection.....\$8,360.00

Thank you for your generosity!

FAITH FORMATION

No Faith Formation 12/24-12/31
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Looking Ahead:

†K-9 Faith Formation begins again on January 7th from 9:00—10:15AM.

†Confirmation Winter Retreat will take place on January 7th from 11AM—7PM at Newman House on BU Campus.

**Thank You from Birthright!**

Dear Fr. Tim, Bev, and St. Francis of Assisi Parishioners, Once again you have astounded us with your generosity! We thank you so much for the wonderful donations of diapers, onesies, outfits, toys formula and beyond. We are very well stocked now in our new office, and ready to help many moms and babies. Please, if you hear of any pregnant woman or a mom who needs some help, ask them to call us at 607 798-7661.

—Sincerely, Pat McCoy and Diane Yajko (Birthright)

Christmas Blessings...

to all of you as we celebrate the gift of God's love in the birth of Christ. May the season of Christmas be truly a gift of love that enriches your lives in the year ahead. On behalf of the parish staff, may you have a merry and a very blessed Christmas filled in the peace and love of Christ.

Fr. Tim & Staff

**THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!**

A VOLUNTEER is a person who is a light to others, giving witness in a mixed-up age, doing well and willingly the tasks at hand—namely, being aware of another's needs and doing something about it.

A VOLUNTEER is a person who strives to make other people happy, who takes the loneliness out of the alone by talking to them, who is concerned when others are unconcerned, who has the courage to be a blessing and to say the things that have to be said for the good of all. A VOLUNTEER is a person whose charity is fidelity, who is faithful in an unfaithful world, grateful in an ungrateful world, giving when all about are grasping, listening when others need to tell about their fears and problems.

THANK YOU to all of our parish volunteers who assisted with organizing and distributing Thanksgiving Baskets; those who assisted with the Giving Tree for Christmas; those who donated; those who organized and delivered Christmas plants to our shut-ins; those who have and do much of the decorations in church to celebrate the seasons. All of you are truly appreciated!

Why Return to the Church? Reflection

1. Can you think of any time in your life that you returned to something you had given up? What made it easy? What made it hard?
2. People find that the church supports many treasured human values, e.g., family, inner peace, personal dignity, integrity, and hope. What values may the church support in your life?
3. What's the most important thing you received from your Catholic heritage? How do you see that continuing in your present and future life?

Prayer For Expectant Parents

*This life you have given us
is so tiny, fragile, and vulnerable,
safe in the womb of flesh and hope,
Yet subject to danger and death.
O God of love, Creator of life, hear our prayer.
We want this baby so much.
Please grant this child of ours
a full term of nurture, the joy and mystery of life,
and the blessing of your love.
Grant us the fulfillment of our dreams,
a baby to cherish and protect,
a child to teach and guide,
a blessing to our family.
Amen.*

Blessing of the Home Nativity Scene

*God every nation and people,
From the very beginning of creation you have made
manifest your love:
When our need for a Savior was great you sent your
Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.
He brings us joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.
Lord, bless all who look upon this manger;
May it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus,*



*And raise up our
thoughts to him,
Who is God-with-us and
Savior of all,
and who lives and reigns
forever and ever.
Amen.*

4th Sunday of Advent: Justice Challenge

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear the angel inviting Mary to become the mother of the Messiah. Mary worried about doing this without breaking her promises to God. The angel replies with the story of Elizabeth being with child even though she was beyond the age of child-bearing. The angel states, "...for nothing will be impossible for God." Your challenge this week is to bring the Good News of Jesus and his message of possibilities to someone who has been weighed down by darkness or despair—due to illness, financial stress, relationship problems, or whatever. As a family, choose one person—or one family—who needs you to remind them that with God, nothing is impossible. How can you help "liberate" this person or family from whatever is keeping them from living a free and full life?

4th Sunday of Advent: Creation Care Tip

Advent is a time of darkness, a time of waiting. We are waiting for the birth of Jesus, the light of the world. Spend some time this week thinking about your use of light. Take some evenings this week to turn off your lights after dinner. Spend some time in candlelight or even enjoying the light of the moon. Consider making a "night by candle light" (or even even fully electricity-free) a part of your weekly schedule.

Catherine's Cupboard Distribution Volunteer Schedule

January 2nd: G. Donahue, D. Dobish, G. Thompson, and G. Pendleton

UPDATE: 2023 Annual HOPE Appeal

We are in the midst of our annual Hope Appeal Campaign. The theme of this year's campaign is the Fabric of our Faith. Each year the Hope Appeal provides funding for over 25 different organizations within the diocese. Each of these organizations depend on the Hope Appeal Campaign to fund operational costs.

Advancing Social Justice

†Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities of Broome County is dedicated to caring for those in need while promoting human development, collaboration, and the elimination of poverty and injustice. They empower people to transform their lives in the spirit of God's love and compassion.

Cultivating Catholic Leadership

†Tuition Assistance

Students attending Catholic Schools of Broome County receive support in paying tuition costs.

†Seminarian & Clergy Education

†Lay Leadership

†Evangelization Efforts

These are just a few of the organizations benefiting from our donations to the Hope Appeal. This year our parish goal for the 2023 Hope Appeal is \$42,826. One-time donations and pledges received to date total just over \$25,000. During this holy season of Advent please consider donating to the Hope Appeal in support of all these important initiatives. We can donate to the Hope Appeal using online giving found on the parish website (stfrancisbing.org).

Confirmation Service Project



The 2024 confirmation class service project is to collect 1000 pounds of clean recyclable light weight plastics. **(NOT PLASTIC JUGS, BOTTLES OR CUPS)**

Upon completion of this goal the Next-Trex decking company will donate a bench to the confirmation class. We have collection bins for the plastics at the church entrance, as well as at the

Parish Center. Please refer to the list of acceptable materials on the usher's tables. Please do not put the paper collection bags in the bins, use them to collect additional plastics. Thank you, for your support!

Thank You for Your Donations!

THANK YOU!! Packages have been delivered and many, many people will have brighter Christmas celebrations thanks to all of you. There was extra food & turkey left from Thanksgiving so we were able to offer a holiday meal to visitors at the pantry this month. Extra gift cards were graciously put under our Giving Tree, so they were given to families at a day care center along with some makings for cookies (thanks to Church of Nazarene) and a new holiday books (thanks to Fenton and Your Home Public Library in Johnson City) to share. As you can see many people give and many receive at this time of year which is why Christmas is such a gift to all.

Off Broadway Show Experience

Church of the Holy Family Ladies Guild is sponsoring a trip to Sight and Sound in Lancaster to see a new show DANIEL on May 8, 2024 and there are still some seats available. Lunch after the show will be at Diener's Country Restaurant. The cost of the trip is \$180 which includes the cost of the bus ride, ticket to the show, lunch after the show, and gratuity for the lunch and the bus driver. This is the perfect holiday gift. Please call Ann at 607-754-8727 with any questions or to reserve a seat.

For Potential Godparents and Sponsors for Baptisms or Confirmation

Anyone looking to be a Godparent or Sponsor to a Confirmation Candidate MUST be a registered member of St. Francis of Assisi to be able to get a letter of certification. This is the only way that the Church can verify you are a practicing Catholic. Please call Delores at the Parish Center (722-4388) for questions.

URGENT

*Eucharistic Ministers
needed for all
10:30 AM Sunday
Masses
Please call the parish
center at 607-722-4388
to sign up!*

URGENT

**St. Francis of Assisi Lectors,
Eucharistic Ministers & Altar Servers**
December 30th & 31st, 2023

4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Sign up Sheet
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Sign up Sheet
4:00 Mass	Altar Server	Sign up Sheet
4:00 Mass	Lector	Sign up Sheet
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Sign up Sheet
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Sign up Sheet
4:00 Mass	EM Host	Sign up Sheet
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Sign up Sheet
4:00 Mass	EM Cup	Sign up Sheet

10:00 Mass	Altar Server	Sign up Sheet
10:00 Mass	Altar Server	Sign up Sheet
10:00 Mass	Altar Server	Sign up Sheet
10:00 Mass	Lector	Sign up Sheet
10:00 Mass	EM Host	Sign up Sheet
10:00 Mass	EM Host	Sign up Sheet
10:00 Mass	EM Host	Sign up Sheet
10:00 Mass	EM Cup	Sign up Sheet
10:00 Mass	EM Cup	Sign up Sheet

Children's Liturgy of the Word Schedule

December 24: ONLINE ONLY– CHRISTMAS

December 31st: ONLINE ONLY— NEW YEARS

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

Do you have a child or grandchild who has already received their First Eucharist? If so, they can be altar servers! **We are in desperate need of more altar servers** as we barely have enough to cover the masses alone week to week.

Why altar serve?

1.) It is a good way to get actively involved in the mechanics of mass. Some kids who find it hard to sit still may benefit from the activity that it provides.
2.) It allows for kids to be a closer part of the church community and make connections.

3.) Direct religious education learning opportunity

4.) Gives kids a sense of purpose and pride Church

Call the parish center (607)722-4388 or fill out a liturgical signup form (on table in the back of the church) and drop it in a collection basket.

Question of the Week

Question for Children: If you were to tell someone one thing about Jesus' mother, Mary, what would you say?

Question for Youth: Gabriel's greeting to Mary was, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." This is God's greeting to each of us – he loves us just as we are. What are some of your personal strengths that God rejoices in?

Question for Adults: Name one area of your life where God has surprised you with love, abilities, or even a pregnancy. How is God's Spirit upon you in this dimension of life?

END OF BULLETIN

CHURCH NAME: St. Francis of Assisi
CITY, STATE: Binghamton, NY
FILE NAME: 06-168
PHONE: **607-722-4388**
Contact: Delores A. Farwell or Sue Ekstrom

Comments:
Bulletin copy for **December 24, 2023**

Deliver 300 copies to St. Francis of Assisi.